

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 248

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sergeant First Class Jeffrey W. Whitworth of the United States Army Reserve upon his receipt of the Jackson Exchange Club's Soldier of the Year Award and commend him for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Sergeant First Class Jeffrey W. Whitworth, whose bravery and willingness to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom through his lifetime of military service have earned him the Jackson Exchange Club's Soldier of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, a 1985 graduate of Lexington High School, Sergeant Whitworth graduated Summa Cum Laude from Lynn University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Whitworth entered the United States Army in 1985, which he served in Baumholder, Germany, and Fort Sam Huston before his release from active duty in 1989; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart defender of this nation and the noble principles on which it was founded, Sergeant Jeffrey Whitworth served with the Tennessee National Guard for twelve years before transferring to the United States Army Reserve; he attended Drill Sergeant School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in order to oversee the basic training of soldiers at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was mobilized in 2006 and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Mechanized Battalion National Police

Transition Team; during his deployment, he served as Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge responsible for training the Iraqi National Police; and

WHEREAS, before his release from active duty on January 15, 2008, Sergeant Whitworth's valiant efforts earned him numerous awards, including a Combat Action Badge, three Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, two Army Reserve Component Achievement Medals, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Iraq Campaign Medal, two Overseas Ribbons, an Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, an Armed Forces Reserve Medal with the "M" device, a National Defense Medal with Bronze Star, two Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Ribbon Good Conduct Medals, an Army Service Ribbon, two Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbons, two Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Ribbons, and a Tennessee National Guard Outstanding Unit Performance Commendation; and

WHEREAS, in his civilian life, Jeffrey Whitworth has given freely of himself to the protection and service of his community, serving the City of Jackson police department for twelve years as a police officer, as the Executive Officer with the tactical unit, and as a pilot for the aviation unit; he left the department in 2002 to pursue a career with the Federal Air Marshal Service, standing as Lead Tactics Instructor and Firearms Instructor at the Miami Field Office; and

WHEREAS, in further evidence of Sergeant Whitworth's excellence and outstanding contributions to our nation, he has earned several awards with the Federal Air Marshal Service, including the Academic Award during the academy, the Super FAM Distinguished Marksmanship Expert Award, the Keith Connelly Award, and the TOP Gun Award; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Whitworth is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Elisa, and their four children; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Whitworth epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sergeant Whitworth for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Sergeant First Class Jeffrey W. Whitworth for his receipt of the Jackson Exchange Club's Soldier of the Year Award, commend and thank him for his meritorious service to our nation and the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.